

SERIAL NO. 09/776,060:
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 1024

16. The system of claim 14 wherein said first portion has an outer arcuate surface, and further comprising at least a second portion over said first portion, said second portion having an inner arcuate surface facing said outer arcuate surface of said first portion to define an opposite side of another said arcuate shaped storage channel.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein said first portion includes at least one step forming a plurality of angular spaced arcuate-shaped storage channels between said first portion and said second portion.

A/ 18. The system of claim 16 wherein said first portion is a middle portion and said second portion is a top portion.

19. The system of claim 18 further comprising a cover over said top portion.

20. A joint box comprising:
a center section having at least one compartment for housing and protecting spliced sections of fibers;
cable termination sections connected to each end of said center section; and
at least one retainer disposed within said at least one compartment, said retainer including at least one arcuate-shaped storage channel extending generally longitudinally with respect to said center section for retaining a plurality of splices such that said splices extend generally longitudinally with respect to said center section.

21. The joint box of claim 20 wherein said center section includes a shelf dividing said center section into first and second compartments.

22. The joint box of claim 21 wherein said at least one retainer includes first and second retainers disposed in said first and second compartments, respectively.

SERIAL NO. 09/776,060:
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 1024

23. The joint box of claim 20 wherein said retainer includes a plurality of arcuate-shaped storage channels.

24. The joint box of claim 23 wherein said plurality of arcuate-shaped storage channels are radially spaced.

25. The joint box of claim 23 wherein said plurality of arcuate-shaped storage channels are angularly spaced.

26. The joint box of claim 20 wherein said retainer includes a base having an outer arcuate surface defining one side of said at least one arcuate-shaped storage channel.

A1 27. The joint box of claim 26 wherein said base includes at least one step forming a plurality of angular spaced arcuate-shaped storage channels.

28. The joint box of claim 26 wherein said retainer includes at least a first portion over said base, said first portion having an inner arcuate surface facing said outer arcuate surface of said base to define an opposite side of said at least one arcuate-shaped storage channel.

29. The joint box of claim 28 wherein said first portion has an outer arcuate surface, and wherein said retainer includes at least a second portion over said first portion, said second portion having an inner arcuate surface facing said outer arcuate surface of said first portion to define an opposite side of another arcuate-shaped storage channel.

30. The joint box of claim 23 wherein said retainer includes a plurality of arcuate-shaped portions forming a plurality of arcuate-shaped channels.

In the Drawings:

Please approve the drawing changes in FIG. 1, as shown in red in the corrected drawings submitted herewith.